

Syllabus

Philosophy 4: Introduction to Ethics

Quarter: Summer B, 2009

Meeting Time & Place: MTWR 11-12:05, 1930 Buchanan Hall

Sections: M. 12:30-1:50 3505 Phelps Hall, & F. 11-12:20 1430 South Hall

Class Description: This will be a survey course of historical theories in the field of philosophical ethics as well as applications of these theories to contemporary moral problems.

Educational Goals: Our purpose will be to engage the students in rigorous, logical, argument driven deliberation on the nature of ethics as well as contemporary ethical problems.

Instructor: Wally Siewert

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TA: Quentin Gee

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Reader: David Spewak

Required Texts: ***The Right Thing to Do: Basic Readings in Moral Philosophy***

By James and Stuart Rachels

Reader on the Trial and Death of Socrates

Available at GrafikArt in Isla Vista

Course Website: <http://www.philosophy.ucsb.edu/websites/phil4/>

All slides will be posted to the course website as study aids. They will appear section by section as each subject section is finished in lecture.

WARNING: The slides alone will not provide sufficient knowledge of the material for either the papers or the final. **Lecture and section attendance, as well as the reading, is mandatory and will be reflected in your participation grade (see below).**

Tentative Schedule:

Week 1: Introductory material & Socrates

Reading: Euthyphro & Apology in Reader.

Week 2: Finish Socrates & explore Relativism, Ethical Egoism

Reading: Crito in reader. First paper assignment handed out.

Week 3: Finish Egoism & Kantian Deontology

Reading: Textbook: Kant, Chapter 7.

Week 4: J.J. Thomson on Abortion Rights & begin Utilitarianism

Reading: JJ Thomson, Chapter 12, & Chapters 3,4,5 on Utilitarianism. First paper assignment due, second paper assignment handed out.

Week 5: Finish Utilitarianism & begin Singer on World Poverty

Reading: Peter Singer, Chapter 18.

Week 6: Finish Singer Environmental Ethics & Political Philosophy (time permitting). Second paper assignment due.

Course Requirements: Attendance, participation, two 3-4 page papers, one final exam.

Grading (as a percentage of final course grade): First paper: 25%, second paper: 35%, final 30%, participation grade 10%.

Academic Integrity: Hopefully this section is superfluous. As in all classes it is expected that all submitted work is the student's own. Failure to comply will result in severe academic penalties. **Don't test me on this.**